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# CURRENT LITERATURE

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Manual of tree diseases<sup>1</sup>**

This first wholly American work in book form on the diseases of forest trees is one of "The Rural Manuals" edited by L. H. BAILEY, and in conformity with the general plan of this series has been written primarily for the general public. Insect and other animal injuries are not included. The treatment of the subject throughout is simple and direct; the diseases are concisely described, and methods of control indicated. The first 4 chapters deal with such maladies of biotic and abiotic origin as are common to many kinds of trees and are respectively entitled "Seedling diseases and injuries," "Leaf diseases and injuries," "Body and branch diseases and injuries," and "Root diseases and injuries." Chapters v-xxxii are devoted to an account of the more "specific" diseases, one chapter to each generic host group, beginning with the alders. The arrangement of the chapters is alphabetical according to the English host group names. Two chapters follow, one on "Tree surgery," the other on "Spraying and dusting for leaf diseases." The book is equipped with a glossary, a general bibliography of tree diseases, and an excellent index.

This work, although not intended as a textbook, will be welcomed by all students of plant pathology because it is the only summary available of the diseases of the forest trees of the United States and of Canada, and because it includes many classified references to the literature. The writing of the book reveals the limitations of forest pathology in America; the number of workers in this field has been small, the subject matter is as yet largely unexplored, and the applications of the results so far attained have been restricted. The author clearly recognizes these facts, and does not fail to point out the direction investigations should follow; in so doing he makes a contribution of prime importance.—J. H. FAULL.

## MINOR NOTICES

**Our national forests.**—The period of reconstruction not less than the progress of the war has directed, in a special manner, the attention of our people to their natural resources and to the desirability of properly utilizing and conserving them. Thus no more timely moment could be chosen for the publication of some account of our forest wealth as shown in the establishment and

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<sup>1</sup> RANKIN, W. HOWARD, *Manual of tree diseases*. pp. 398. *figs.* 70. 1918. New York: Macmillan Co.